

Summing up 2011

273 Total children

46 Children Adopted

192 Returned to Parent or relative

7 Aged out/ Independent Living

26 Went to guardianship



December 2011

A PUBLICATION OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY CASA

# The Voice



Michael and Julie’s  
Christmas Stocking Fund!  
It’s that time of year again! Get excited!

Time for Michael and Julie’s Christmas Stocking Fund, through CASA for Kids Fund. For those of you that are not familiar with this cause, here is a little background. Julie Sennott and Michael Dunlap loved life and loved working with youth and families. Both worked tirelessly to help keep kids safe and healthy. By doing this, they believe that they could inspire other to help as well. Julie and Michael both left the field of youth work far too early, both passing away in early 2009, but they have left a legacy that we celebrate with you today. Julie and Michael dreamed of a day where every child could be filled with joy by having one special gift under their tree to be unwrapped on Christmas morning. As a CASA volunteer, you get to be a part of this. The Michael and Julie’s Christmas Stocking Fund is able to allot a certain amount of money for each child to ensure they will have at least one gift for Christmas. The amount of money is determined by their age as follows:

0-5 years	\$15-25 each
6-12 years	\$35-50 each
13-18 years	\$80-100 each

This year, the parents of Michael and Julie have been invited to our Annual Holiday Luncheon on December 16<sup>th</sup> so that we may recognize them and show our support.

To help with all of this, there will be two wrapping parties. So even if you will not be the one shopping for the child, you can come and wrap some gifts. Any help makes a difference. The wrapping parties will be **November 30th and December 8<sup>th</sup> 10am-2pm in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building, 20 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St.** Since there are so many kids that are put into the system at the last minute, especially before the holidays we will be purchasing gifts up until December 23<sup>rd</sup>.





Volunteers like you are priceless!  
Always caring, always sharing,  
You represent our country at its best!  
Whether taking action in your own community  
Or involved in a national effort,  
Your contribution of time, talent and compassion  
Makes a valuable difference.

Volunteers like you are people  
Who reach out to others and, in so doing,  
Become extraordinary!  
You bring joy and sunshine,  
And set an example,  
Wherever you go.  
Thanks for all you do.  
You're truly a treasure!!

We appreciate everything you've done for our program throughout the year  
and so we'd like to say:

Thank You and wish you Happy Holidays!



# Meet Our New Staff Member

Dear Volunteers and CASA Community,

I am thrilled to be a part of the CASA team as an Intake Case Coordinator. The CASA staff is wonderful and has welcomed me with open arms. It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to work with such great staff and volunteers!

I come to CASA with an extensive background with the Indiana Department of Child Services. I primarily handled investigations of child abuse and/or neglect as a Family Case Manager for the state. I have worked in Fountain, Warren and Carroll counties in such a capacity since 2006. As a Family Case Manager, I served on various boards and committees including the Regional Service Council, the West Central Community Corrections Board and on Permanency Round Tables. I was also a Peer Coach for our region in which I would assist other Family Case Managers in the Child and Family Team Meeting process. Prior to working as a Family Case Manager for the Department of Child Services, I worked as an Instructional Aide for MSD of Warren County and as a Home Visitor for Early Head Start.

I attended Purdue University and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and have minors in Sociology and Women's Studies. I have also completed a year in the MBA program at Indiana Wesleyan University.

My husband, Kyle, and I have been together for ten years. We have two sons, Scout (6) and Nash (4). I enjoy spending time with family and friends. I also enjoy volunteering time at my church and in community outreach.

It is my pleasure to join the CASA staff. I am looking forward to meeting and working with all of you!

Sincerely,

Brandy Holt



## Happy Birthday to You:

**December:** Cadi Bien, Diana Brown, Lynn Davis, Bill Gettings Sr, Theresa Hicks, Emily Kraska, Deb Massengill, Devon Moore, Jennifer Thilges, Earaleta Voder

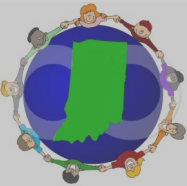
**January:** Michelle Applegate, Kimberly Beard, Monica Christopher, Sallie Janowiak, Diana Skiles, Cynthia Smith, Beth Turner, Kevin Van Gorder, Julie Wiley, Pat Wilkerson

**February:** Linda Bowman, Nancy Gehring, Pamela Grenard, Betty Hawkins, Jill Lynn, Beth Miller, Laynah Sheets

**March:** Kathy Childress, Coleen Hamrick, Michelle Jordy, Tom Newett, Vanessa PeGan, Rose Plumbback, Mike Roush, Laura Thompson, Monica Waters, Lora Marie Williams



On Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> the Tippecanoe Child Abuse Prevention Council sponsored a Halloween Party at the Bauer Family Service Center for kids and their families. 226 children dressed as ghosts, princesses, Ninjas and many other things came to enjoy pizza, games, face painting and a bounce house. The CASA Program would like to thank the TCAP Board Members, Bauer Staff, Barry Richards, DARE Office and Purdue School of Nursing Students for all their hard work to provide a safe event for children and their families. The following businesses are to also be commended for their donations that helped to make this event a fantastic success:



## The Indiana State GAL/CASA Conference

By Charlie Stewart

The theme “Soaring to New Heights for Kids” was most fitting for the 2011 GAL/CASA state conference held in Indianapolis on October 15. It offered a wide variety of sessions that were interesting and informative for experienced and inexperienced CASAs alike. For example, Dr. Angela Tomlin of the Riley Child Development Center presented a session on “Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health” that focused on what early childhood mental health is and is not, the most important skill for a young child to develop in the first year of life, stages of attachments, “angels in the nursery” (past experiences that exert significant influences as children develop), and understanding parent behavior. Other sessions focused on “Drugs, Kids, Community . . . and CASA,” “The Effect of Trauma on Children,” “Creating Positive Futures for Older Foster Youth,” “The Use of Psychiatric Medication in Children,” and “Helping Children Be Resilient.”

Two events were highly motivating for the hundreds of CASAs and GALs present at the conference. The first was the keynote address delivered by Naomi Haines Griffith, a national consultant on child welfare issues, the executive director of a child abuse prevention agency, and co-author of The Unkindest Cut – The Emotional Maltreatment of Children. She is an extraordinary story teller who entertains while challenging and inspiring listeners to remain committed to helping children in need. The second was the presentation of the 2011 Indiana State Volunteer of the Year Award to Ronda Moyers who served as a CASA for a young man from age 7 to 16. During those years, in the words of Joe a former foster youth, “She has shown up at all my events. She has never missed anything important to me . . . I can’t describe in words how much she means to me because it is beyond words.” Joe surprised her by walking in at the end of the presentation. There were few dry eyes in the large ballroom, and we all understood why we are CASAs.